



## Newsflash

### Set clocks back

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed Oct. 30. Daylight-saving time ends Oct. 31 at 1 a.m. in Europe and at 2 a.m. in the United States.

### No nuts in lunches

Army and Air Force Exchange Service Europe officials want to reassure Department of Defense Dependents Schools parents, students, teachers and administrators that they have removed all items with nuts and nut products from school lunch menus following two recent incidents where students were inadvertently served egg rolls containing peanut products. The students who have peanut allergies were quickly treated after eating the egg rolls and suffering allergic reactions. (AAFES-Europe Release)

### Holiday mail

Military postal officials report that its not too early to start mailing packages to reach state-side destinations in time for the holidays. The following are recommended mail-by deadlines for holiday mail to reach the United States from Army Post Offices overseas: Space Available Nov. 20, Parcel Airlift Dec. 4, Priority mail and first-class cards/letters Dec. 11, Express mail Dec. 18.

### Native American speaker

Pauleen Billie, an educator and Native American representative, will speak at the Fliegerhorst Dining Facility Nov. 2 at 1 p.m., Baumholder's Wagon Wheel Theater Nov. 3 at 1 p.m., Friedberg's Old Ironsides Theater Nov. 4 at 1 p.m. and Wiesbaden's Community Activity Center Nov. 5 at 11 a.m. in observance of Native American Heritage Month. Billie assisted in the development of tribal resolutions for amending policies in school attendance boundaries for 10 Navajo nations and a resolution requiring that school administrators meet certification standards.

### Movie prices rise

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has raised the prices for its movie showings at overseas theaters. First run movies now cost \$4 for adults, \$2 for children. Regular movies cost \$3.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Revival/repeat releases cost \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. (AAFES-Europe Release)

## New federal worker system

### Government nears trial period of National Security Personnel System

By Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

A representative of the Headquarters U.S. Army Europe G1, Civilian Personnel Directorate, briefed employees and answered questions about the new National Security Personnel System at briefings in Hanau, Wiesbaden and Giessen Oct. 19 and 21.

The new Congressionally authorized federal employee system, intended to replace the current civilian personnel system, will provide more flexibility and streamline processes, according to officials.

"We're getting away from the GS and Wage Grade pay scales and moving toward pay bands," said Karen Quasny of the Civilian Personnel Directorate. Under the new system federal civilian employees

will receive pay increases according to their performance, rather than time spent in a job. "The value in that — the intent — is that when managers hire people they will not be restricted to a certain GS and step. ... When we need to hire people we'll be able to get the people we need and be able to set the pay within a wider range or pay band."

In a video presentation, Reginald Brown, assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Dave Snyder, assistant G-1 for Civilian Personnel Policy, described how the government has been working with the Office of Personnel Management, military leaders and working groups to establish a working model.

Need for the NSPS arose in the wake of the terrorist attacks on the

See NSPS on page 4

## Halloween hours

### Communities set trick-or-treat times

Motorists are advised to be especially cautious Oct. 30 and 31 when ghosts and goblins take to the streets in 104th Area Support Group housing areas to exact their annual Halloween "tax."

Commanders have designated the following times as official trick-or-treat hours:

— 221st Base Support Battalion (Wiesbaden and Dexheim) — Oct. 31 from 4-7 p.m. The 221st BSB Chaplains Office hosts a Halloween alternative Oct. 31 from 5-7 p.m. at Wiesbaden's Gen. H.H. Arnold. Entrance fee is two bags of candy per family.

— 222nd BSB (Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg) — Oct. 30 from 5-7 p.m.

— 284th BSB (Butzbach,



Photo by Edwin Torres

Trick-or-treaters will be out in force Oct. 30 and 31.

Friedberg, Giessen) — Oct. 30 from 6-8 p.m.

— 414th BSB (Büdingen, Gelnhausen, Hanau) — Oct. 31 from 5-7 p.m. See Halloween on page 3



Photo-illustration by Karl Weisel

## Putting a stop to abuse, neglect

### Family Advocacy Program officials draw attention to issue of domestic violence

By Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Yellow police tape usually indicates a crime scene.

For the past month Büdingen and Hanau community members may have noticed this distinct marking surrounding hundreds of red and white flags. The display, erected in prominent areas such as Armstrong Barracks, the Wolfgang Shopping Center and Pioneer Kaserne, is meant to draw attention to the issue of domestic violence during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, according to Family Advocacy Program officials. Each of the 64 red flags represents a case of spouse abuse and the 111 white flags child abuse reported in the 414th Base Support Battalion over the past fiscal year.

"A lot of people still think that domestic violence is not a criminal act when in fact it is assault and battery," said John Bowman, FAP manager for the 414th BSB's Army Community Service. "We figured this was one of the best ways to raise awareness of the problem in our community."

With 175 substantiated cases of abuse and neglect over the past

year, officials said, while it may be a reflection of American society as a whole where one in three women is exposed to some sort of domestic violence, it also shows an upward trend in the local military community.

"From what Social Work Services officials have told us, there is an increase," said Bowman, adding that the rise may be an indication of the additional stressors put upon military families due to the extended deployment of Soldiers to Iraq.

"Many couples arrive in Europe and the service member deploys immediately. Spouses don't have time to settle in and may feel isolated," said Bowman.

"Some spouses are not involved in activities [such as Family Readiness Groups or deployment training] and with that, isolation could follow," said Christy Eplee, Emergency Placement Care coordinator. "A lot of spouses feel there are barricades to getting involved such as lack of child care or transportation," said Tamara Evonne, Life Skills educator for Hanau ACS.

See Abuse on page 3

## Inside

### Making learning fun at Smith Elementary School

This week's school focus looks at the academic world of Baumholder's Smith Elementary School. See page 26 for that story and other school news.



### Getting to know the wildlife

Young people, especially, will enjoy a visit to the Opel Zoo in the foothills of the Taunus Mountains. See page 28.





# Commentary

## Feedback: *In what ways could your community be improved?*



**Pvt. Sean Lawson**  
**Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, Baumholder**

"A bigger PX, commissary and Powerzone. We need more commercial stuff here."



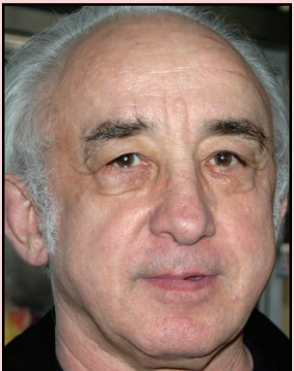
**Alice Anesgart**  
**104th Area Support Group Army Career and Alumni Program, Hanau**

"We really have no central place to go for adult entertainment."



**Command Sgt. Maj. Wallace Sreaves**  
**19th Support Center, Wiesbaden**

"The biggest issue for me is parking and traffic control at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. It takes 45 minutes to get into the installation to do PT in the morning. I'd open up the main gate in the morning to allow more cars to get on. The other biggest issue is parking. I'd get the facility engineers to redesign the parking areas and review them to make sure the current parking spaces are being utilized efficiently."



**Robert Minsky**  
**American Arms cash controller, Wiesbaden**

"I'd improve the bus service to and from the American Arms Hotel as well as increase the parking there."



**Jill Grabenbauer**  
**Baumholder family member**

"They've been doing a lot of improvements anyway, but I think the thing most people complain about is housing and the time it takes to get repairs done. But their renovations are good."

## Letter to the editor

### When is restaurant open?

I recently tried to eat at the American Arms Restaurant located in the American Arms Hotel, and felt you should know about my experience. My wife and I learned about the American Arms Restaurant and the newly renovated kitchen from "Connection" magazine. We were at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Bazaar that weekend, and while looking for the Wiesbaden PX came across the American Arms Hotel. We felt it would be a great time to check out the restaurant and enjoy a nice meal.

We went in to the hotel at around 3:30 p.m., noted the restaurant was closed until 6 p.m. for dinner and asked at the hotel lobby desk what they thought of the restaurant. The clerk mentioned it was very popular, but did not have specific information as the hotel and restaurant were separate entities. We decided to come back in a few hours and enjoy a nice dinner.

We returned at 6 p.m. only to find the restaurant completely dark. We checked at the desk. The clerk pointed to the sign and stated it definitely opened on Saturday at 6 p.m. After waiting around a few minutes we asked the bartender. He stated the restaurant was losing money on weekends so it wasn't open. I understand a business needing to make money and adjusting its schedule accordingly. What I find hard to understand is the lack of communication.

The hotel had signs that showed the wrong times, the clerk had no knowledge of the change and there wasn't even a note on

the restaurant door. Times were also not listed in the magazine article. For a facility that was so highly touted in the recent issue of "Connection," this is a pretty bleak picture.

No wonder they are losing money — no one knows when they are open.

**Capt. Steven B. Wasilausky**  
**Friedberg**

**Editor's note: The following response was provided by Lt. Col. Christopher Franks, 221st Base Support Battalion commander:**

We regret that Capt. Wasilausky encountered problems at the American Arms Hotel Restaurant. The recently re-opened restaurant operated by a concessionaire contractor has offered unprecedented food quality and presentation such as we have not had at the hotel before. MWR leadership representing the 104th Area Support Group, NAF Contracting, the 221st Base Support Battalion Business Operations Division and the American Arms Hotel are working directly and candidly with the contractor in an attempt to offer support and correct problems such as those experienced by Capt. Wasilausky. He has been reminded that making unilateral decisions without notice causes negative customer relations and inconvenience to the very people upon whom he depends.

Our challenge is to preserve the high quality product that the contractor has introduced to the hotel while eliminating the kinds of issues Capt. Wasilausky had to face. We are working toward that goal. We apologize for any inconvenience that this situation caused Capt. Wasilausky and his family.

### Did you know?

## Emergency visit reg revised

The Joint Travel Federal Regulation has been revised to authorize Emergency Visitation Travel. Eligible employees and family members may now travel at government expense to the United States or other location in certain situations involving serious illness, injury or death of an immediate family member, or special family circumstances.

Those eligible are limited to one round-trip for each illness or injury of each immediate family member. An employee request for EVT must include the name and address of the ailing family member, the name of the attending physician or hospital, and the name, address and relationship of the person to be contacted in connection with the emergency.

Once a request is made an action officer must determine the seriousness of the illness. DD Form 1610 and a repayment agreement are used to authorize EVT transportation. Individuals traveling without pre-authorization must sign a repayment agreement within 30 days of travel and submit it to the action officer for reimbursement approval.

✦ Employees must be U.S. citizens assigned at an overseas duty station with a transportation agreement that provides for return travel. ✦ Eligible family members include employee's spouse and children of the employee or spouse who are part of the household. ✦ Immediate family members are defined as relatives of the employee — a spouse; spouse's parents or children, including adopted children and their spouses, parents; brothers and sisters and their spouses; and any individual related by blood or affinity whose close association with the employee is the equivalent of a family relationship. ✦ Qualifying serious illness or injury is one from which, based on competent medical opinion, death is imminent or likely, or one during which the absence of the employee or eligible family member would result in great personal hardship.

For details and assistance call the 104th Area Support Group Transportation Division at mil 323-3253. (Courtesy of 104th ASG Directorate of Logistics)

## Herald Union

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# News and features

## Newsflash

### Warrant Officers Ball

The 86th anniversary U.S. Army Warrant Officers Corps Ball will be held starting at 6 p.m. Nov. 6 in Heidelberg's Patrick Henry Village Pavilion. The event is open to all past and present warrant officers and their family members, friends and guests. Make reservations by Oct. 29 by calling Call Victor McLaughlin at mil 370-5427, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ronald Peterman at mil 379-6444 or sending an email to [g4mrdclix@hq.c5.army.mil](mailto:g4mrdclix@hq.c5.army.mil).

### Professional development

Space is available for U.S. general officers and colonels in the Army in Europe to attend a German-American professional development seminar in Waldfischbach-Burgalben Dec. 8-10. The two-day seminar will feature university teachers discussing transatlantic relations, German foreign policy after 1998, the European Union and other topics. It will include a visit to the European Parliament. Call Mr. Beldermann at mil 370-8725 for details.

### Facilitator/trainers sought

Native American Management Services, Inc., seeks part-time career transition workshop facilitators/trainers to work in Hanau, Giessen and Friedberg. The trainers will facilitate one to two three-day workshops per month to help service members who are transitioning from the military to the civilian work force. Applicants must have AA degree or three years military experience as a trainer, understanding of U.S. and overseas employment practices, career counseling or human resource management, computer experience and excellent communication skills. Email resume to the TAP recruiter at [ssauntry@namsinc.org](mailto:ssauntry@namsinc.org), fax to civ (703) 821-3680 or mail to Native American Management Services, Inc., Attn: HR Dept., 6858 Old Dominion Drive, Suite 302, McLean, VA 22101.

### Commissary Internet coupons

Commissary shoppers can save money by using coupons available on the Defense Commissary Agency home page at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com). Click on "Links" to access the Internet coupons. (DeCA Release)

### Baumholder YS wins grant

The Baumholder Keystone Club was one of three Army installations to win a \$5,000 Taco Bell Teen Supreme grant. The grants are aimed at enhancing teen programs. (Courtesy of the 104th ASG's Child and Youth Services)

### Beware of bank fraud

Everyone using electronic mail is warned to beware of the latest identity theft scam making the rounds. The scam is perpetrated when users receive an email with a banking logo such as Citibank or USBank requesting users to follow a link where they will be coaxed to reveal personal information such as passwords, user ID, etc. Users who receive emails of this type are advised to never reply to the email but rather to delete it immediately. Users who receive similar emails should report them to their Information Management/Assurance Team. (104th ASG Automation Division)

### Give to CFC

This year's Combined Federal Campaign Overseas continues through Dec. 3 giving Soldiers and civilians the opportunity to give to the charity of their choice. Contributors wishing to support their local military community can specify that their contributions go to "FSYP," or the Family Support and Youth Programs — 100 percent of which is returned to local communities. This year's campaign overseas also features a giveaway for people who turn in a pledge card (no actual financial commitment is required to enter the giveaway). For more information contact your local CFC-O keyperson or visit the CFC-O website at [www.cfcoverseas.org](http://www.cfcoverseas.org).



## Democracy in action

Neubrück Elementary School fifth-grader Taylor Elizondo points to presidential choices at an online voting station while classmates Hayley Slyter and Daniel Pena look on. Students will cast votes for the highest office in the land at the 222nd Base Support Battalion elementary school in a mock election Oct. 28.

Photo by Peggy Hoffman-Schmidt

## Halloween

### Continued from page 1

5:30-7:30 p.m. The Military Police will pass out chemlites and Halloween bags at 5:30 p.m. at the Cardwell school bus stop (Building 1263), the Pioneer pavilion (Building 308), Sportfield T-intersection (by the main gate), New Argonner pavilion (Building 201), Old Argonner pavilion (Building 404), Fliegerhorst pavilion (Building 1381), Gelnhausen pavilion (Building 1809) and Büdingen's clinic parking lot.

Parents are reminded that children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Community officials said adults should not wear costumes or masks when accompanying children for force protection reasons. Residents in leased or private rental housing are encouraged to escort their children to the nearest military housing area to participate.

Other Halloween safety guidelines:

- Trick-or-treaters should use flashlights or battery-operated lanterns. Carrying burning candles is prohibited.
- Children should be instructed to visit only well-lit

residences, to never enter a stranger's house and to not eat treats until they return home and parents have a chance to inspect the goodies.

— Costumes should be light-colored and/or decorated with reflective tape that will glow in the beam of a car's headlights. Make sure costumes are also made of flame resistant fabrics (look for the label), well fitting to prevent accidents and do not block vision.

— Older trick-or-treaters should travel in a group. Parents should know the route their children are taking and any other activities they may be attending. Set time limits on when children should return home.

— Parents should explain the difference between tricks and vandalism to their children.

— Advise children to always cross streets at marked crosswalks or traffic lights and never between parked cars. (For more information about Halloween activities in your community see the BSB pages and Things to do on page 28.)

## Abuse

### Continued from page 1

"This isolation can lead to depression with the potential for neglect or abuse," said Evonne, pointing out that most of the cases in the 414th BSB involved child neglect.

"As is often the case following a redeployment there is also a lot of friction among family members," said Bowman.

While the military certainly has its share of unique stressors such as lengthy separations because of deployments and field duty, having to move frequently, living abroad in a foreign culture, lack of privacy and other factors, Evonne said, it is crucial people realize they are ultimately responsible for their actions — especially when it comes to domestic violence.

"It's always dangerous to say that stress leads to violence. People have to realize that they've made a choice," she said. That choice may indeed be a criminal act.

"All senior leaders play a role in domestic violence prevention," said Eplee. "Family Advocacy is a command-driven program," added Evonne.

"Many people are aware of abuse, but don't get involved. We want the community to be aware that by reporting incidents of domestic violence they are actually helping families," Bowman said. "We certainly want people to know it's not punitive to report family violence."

"Our ideal situation is that people who are at risk would take the initiative to seek assistance on their own because services are available in the community," he said.

In addition to the programs already in place to try to prevent or stop abuse, the Army is "really bolstering the victim advocate position," said Bowman. According to an Oct. 4 article in the *Army Times*, the Army signed a \$4.9 million contract to put more than 80 victim

advocates in 38 locations in the United States and Germany. These individuals will provide around the clock response and will augment the chaplains, social workers and other programs available to help military families.

In the meantime FAP officials remain committed to raising awareness that help is available and domestic violence can be prevented.

"That's certainly part of it — getting people to report abuse," said Evonne. Anyone aware of domestic violence or neglect should call the Military Police immediately to help family members in need.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Christy Eplee (from left), Tamara Evonne and John Bowman arrange 175 flags representing domestic violence victims at Hanau's Wolfgang Shopping Center.



# News and features

## IMA-E looks at interest in early retirement

The U.S. Army Installation Management Agency-Europe conducted a survey of its workforce to determine the number of employees who would be interested in taking an early retirement (VERA) and/or the voluntary separation incentive (VSIP).

Both VERA and VSIP are management tools designed to

minimize the impact of involuntary separations with the IMA-E Region.

The incentives will be used sparingly and only in situations where the impact of downsizing, restructuring and/or reduction-in-force would be minimized through the use of these tools, officials said.

A common misconception is that if you receive VERA, you will automatically be entitled to VSIP. IMA-E officials said they do not view VSIP as an automatic entitlement for employees.

Approvals of VSIP applications will be contingent upon management's ability to identify how civilian reductions can be minimized and cost savings achieved through the use of the VSIP authority.

VERA will be implemented for reasons similar to those identified under VSIP; however, unlike VSIP, VERA will be offered before the initiation of any reduction-in-force.

Not all requests received in response to the VERA open-window will be approved. IMA-E management officials reserve the right to disapprove VERA request based on the needs of the organization.

Employees approved for VERA and/or VSIP must meet certain eligibility criteria for early separation and to receive monetary compensation. Employees, regardless of age, who have 25 years of service or those at age 50 with 20 years of service may apply for VERA during the designated open-window period. The open-window period for which applications may be submitted will be determined by the IMA-E Region director.

Any employee, except re-employed annuitants, regardless of retirement eligibility may apply for VSIP and receive up to \$25,000. There are general requirements for VERA and VSIP eligibility. Visit the Department of Defense National Security Personnel System website at [www.cpms.osd.mil/care/index\\_tools.html](http://www.cpms.osd.mil/care/index_tools.html) for details about VERA and VSIP.

The initial canvassing of the workforce was to determine a projected number of possible participants for the above referenced programs. In the event the need would arise to offer these incentives, the IMA-E work force would once again be canvassed to determine the number of interested employees by position title, series, grade, organization and seniority. This subsequent canvassing of the work force would be to render an approval decision pertaining to the granting of VERA and/or VSIP. (Courtesy of IMA-E Public Affairs)



Photo by Spc. Peter Holzer

### Learning about the U.S. military

Capt. Ethan Hall (second from right) and Capt. Chad Murray of the 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, describe the workings of the battalion to Rachel Batish-Levkovich (from left), Chad Matthew Hammer and Erika Hausner-Bach, visitors from the Hessen Parliament in Wiesbaden, during a tour of the battalion, located in Hanau-Grossauheim Oct. 14. The two political science interns and parliament representative were hosted by Lt. Col. Samuel Piper, 5-7th ADA commander, who provided a multi-media briefing on 5-7th ADA's mission and accomplishments.

## NSPS .....

### Continued from page 1

United States on Sept. 11, 2001, said Brown. "There was really a national security problem." The federal hiring system was simply too slow and unresponsive to fill police and security needs, he said.

NSPS will "provide flexibility to meet challenges" throughout the work force, which comprises some 750,000 employees within the Defense Department, said Brown.

Streamlining recruitment, promotions, pay administration, job classification, labor management relations, disciplinary actions and appeals are all goals of the program, officials said.

"The intent is for the regulations and policy to come out in draft form in December of this year," said Quasny, with information about the program being published in the Federal Register. After more fine-tuning, a pilot program, referred to as "Spiral One," is expected to be implemented in July of 2005. "We'll probably have one of the pilots in Europe," she said.

"The next couple of months will determine how many people will be included in Spiral One," said Snyder.

A second pilot is expected to be tested in January 2006 with full NSPS implementation slated for 2007 or 2008.

The guiding principles of the program,

according to officials, include:

- ✦ Putting mission first while supporting national security goals and strategic objectives;
- ✦ Respecting the individual and protecting rights guaranteed by law;
- ✦ Valuing talent, performance, leadership and commitment to public service;
- ✦ Being flexible, understandable, credible, responsive and executable;
- ✦ Ensuring accountability at all levels;
- ✦ Balancing human resources interoperability with unique mission requirements;
- ✦ Being competitive and cost effective.

During a question and answer session employees asked about everything from the status of the five-year rule for U.S. Army Europe civilian workers to specifics about how the appraisal process will function in the future under NSPS. Officials gave their opinions, but explained that details of the NSPS are still being hammered out.

Employees are advised to visit [www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps](http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps) or [www.cpol.army.mil](http://www.cpol.army.mil) for the latest information about NSPS, Quasny said.

"This is the biggest change in the federal personnel system in the last 50 years," said Snyder.



Photo by Midori VanBrunt

### Help for an orphanage

Spc. Nathaniel Ellis (left) and Spc. Jacob Ramsey of the 130th Engineer Brigade deliver boxes of clothes and toys to an orphanage in the Hanau area. The project came about after Soldiers witnessed the hardships of children in Iraq and wanted to keep on helping children everywhere. "I feel honored to be able to help others," said Spc. Brandy Byers.

## Medics honored for heroism while in Iraq

Story and photos by  
**Cassandra Kardeke**  
221st Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Two Soldiers assigned to the 159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), part of the 421st Medical Evacuation Battalion, received the Soldier's Medal in a ceremony at Wiesbaden Army Airfield Oct. 5.

Staff Sgt. Eric Hartman and Sgt. Douglas Holm received the medals for their actions Aug. 19, 2003, assisting with medical evacuations following the bombing of the United Nations building in Baghdad, Iraq.

"If anyone epitomizes what Sol-

diers are supposed to be like, it's these two NCOs right here," said Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski, V Corps deputy commander, during the ceremony at the Flyers Theater in Wiesbaden.

The unit deployed to Iraq in early March 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Hartman's crew was just returning from a separate medevac mission that August afternoon when he received a call that a bomb had exploded at the U.N. headquarters building. Holm's crew was not scheduled for duty for another six hours, yet both Soldiers readied their crews and arrived on the scene within minutes. Upon arrival both began treating casualties and readying victims for transport and then were told of a victim trapped within the rubble inside the building.

"Noise, confusion, fear, terror and the smell of chaos is an environment no normal human being would go into, and we had two who led the way, going into that building while it was falling apart," Wojdakowski said.

"Somebody said there was a person trapped in the rubble, and

I spent the next three and a half hours working on that," said Hartman during an interview with the *Herald Union* last September (see Oct. 28, 2003, issue).

Both Hartman and Holm spent hours inside the collapsing building. With debris and concrete fall-

ing on and around them, the two continued digging to reach trapped victims.

"The sad thing is that it didn't matter what we did; we couldn't get to them," said Holm.

The two later found out that one of the victims they extracted was Sergio Vieira de Mello, the chief of the U.N. mission in Iraq. Although they were able to pull him out alive, he was later pronounced dead following his arrival at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

"We would have done the same for anybody," said Holm.

After receiving his medal during the ceremony, Hartman emotionally expressed sincere gratitude to his unit and family.

"I'm honored to receive this, but I didn't do anything another crew member wouldn't have done. I just happened to get recognized," said Holm.

The Soldier's Medal is awarded to any person of the Armed Forces who, while serving in any capacity with the Army, distinguishes him or herself by heroism not involving actual conflict with the enemy. The act must have

involved personal hazard or danger and the voluntary risk of life under conditions not involving conflict with an armed enemy.



Staff Sgt. Eric Hartman receives the Soldier's Medal from Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski for his assistance to the United Nations in Iraq.



Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski, V Corps deputy commander, pins the Soldier's Medal on Sgt. Douglas Holm in a ceremony at Wiesbaden Army Airfield Oct. 5.



Photo by Karen Edge

### Blimp flies over airfield

A blimp advertising local radio station FFH flies over Wiesbaden Army Airfield on a cloudy day.